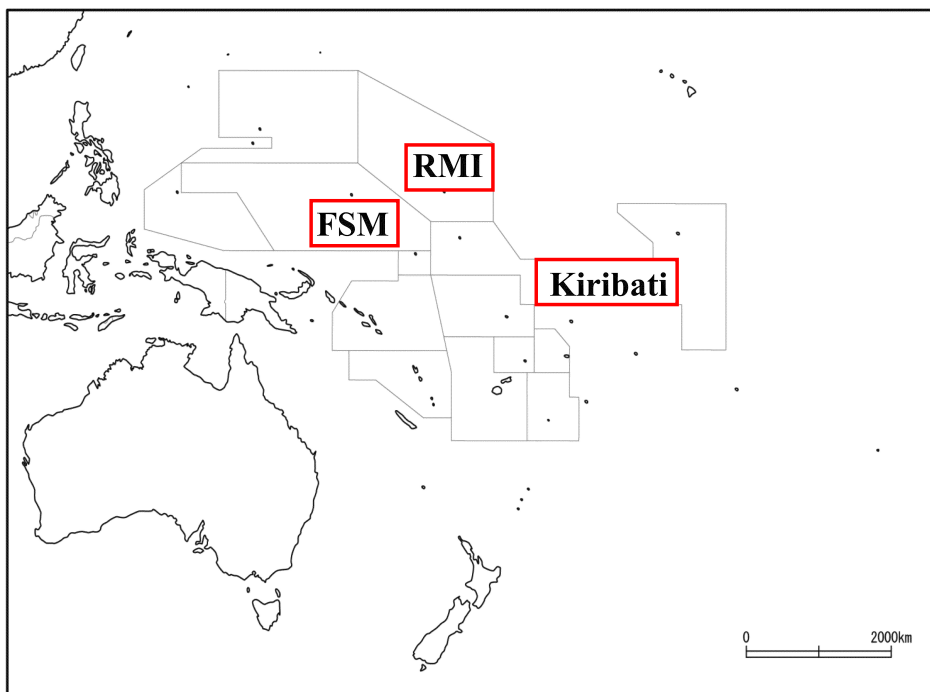




INTRODUCTION

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Atoll Countries in the Pacific to be Impacted by Climate Change



Marshall Islands: A third of the nation has left for the U.S.

HILDA HEINE (former President of RMI):

There have been people who leave for education, for health purposes, for jobs, and **I'm sure there are people who are leaving because of the threats of climate change.**

MIKE TAIBBI (Journalist):

There's another reason they're moving to **the United States — where the Marshallese community currently numbers around 30,000.** Citizens of the Marshall Islands can live and work in the U.S. without visas and work permits.

Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/marshall-islands-a-third-of-the-nation-has-left-for-the-us> (16 December 2018)

Migration to USA by **Compact of Free Association (COFA)**

FSM



RMI



Palau



- ✓ **Citizens of the associated states may live and work in USA without visa or quota.**
- ✓ **COFA is an international agreement establishing and governing the relationships between USA and the three Pacific Island nations (Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.)**
- ✓ **COFA allows USA to operate armed forces in Compact areas, to demand land for operating bases and excludes the militaries of other countries without permission by USA.**

Research Questions (for survey in RMI and Kiribati)

- Are future migrants from the **Atoll Countries** ready to immigrate to abroad, in terms of education and training?
- Have emigrants from the **Atoll Countries** succeeded in re-establishing their livelihood after relocation?

Methodology

- Survey with college and university students in the **Atoll Countries** regarding their aspiration to migrate.
- Survey with emigrants from the **Atoll Countries** to abroad regarding their livelihood after relocation.

**We were really keen to compare
Atoll Countries (i.e. RMI and Kiribati)
with
Volcanic Island (i.e. non-atoll) Countries**

- ✓ **Are college students in the Volcanic Island Country of FSM in the same or different opinion vis-à-vis the college/university students in the Atoll Countries of RMI and Kiribati about their aspiration to migrate to abroad?**
- ✓ **Do emigrants from FSM to USA experience differently from the emigrants from RMI to USA?**

Research Questions (for Survey in FSM)

- Are future migrants from the **Volcanic Island Country** ready to immigrate to abroad, in terms of education and training?
- Have emigrants from the **Volcanic Island Country** succeeded in re-establishing their livelihood after relocation?

Methodology

- Survey with college students in the **Volcanic Island Country** regarding their aspiration to migrate.
- Survey with emigrants from the **Volcanic Island Country** to abroad regarding their livelihood after relocation.

Study Cases

Marshall Islands and Kiribati as Atoll Countries

- Survey with the students of the collage (CMI) and university (USP) in the Marshall Islands and the university (USP) in Kiribati about their aspiration to migrate.
- Survey of emigrants at Springdale (Arkansas, USA) , Salem and Portland (Oregon, USA) and Fiji.

Federal States of Micronesia (FSM) as Volcanic Island Country

- Survey of College of the Micronesia (COM-FSM) students.
- Survey of emigrants at Salem and Portland (Oregon, USA)

This afternoon, we will listen to:

- ✓ **“Legal and Practical Measures for Environmental Migrants”**
- ✓ **“Migration, Transition and Livelihoods: A Comparative Analysis of Marshallese College Students in Majuro and Marshallese in Springdale, AR”**
- ✓ **“Migration of Pacific Islanders to Oregon: Assessing Quality of Life Facilitators and Inhibitors”**
- ✓ **“Livelihood Re-establishment of Emigrants from Kiribati to Fiji”**

Just one finding from our research

- **59% of emigrants from FSM to Oregon left the island (mostly for USA) **within one month of deciding.****

When I showed this finding at COM-FSM in January 2019:

- **A couple of COM-FSM’s faculty members deplored “Many students leave the college even in the middle of a semester”.**

It implies:

- **Value of education (to secure a degree) was not understood by the college students in FSM.**
- **Those emigrants (e.g. “uncles”) who invite the students to USA do not inform students of the importance of education and possessing a degree for their livelihood after migration.**

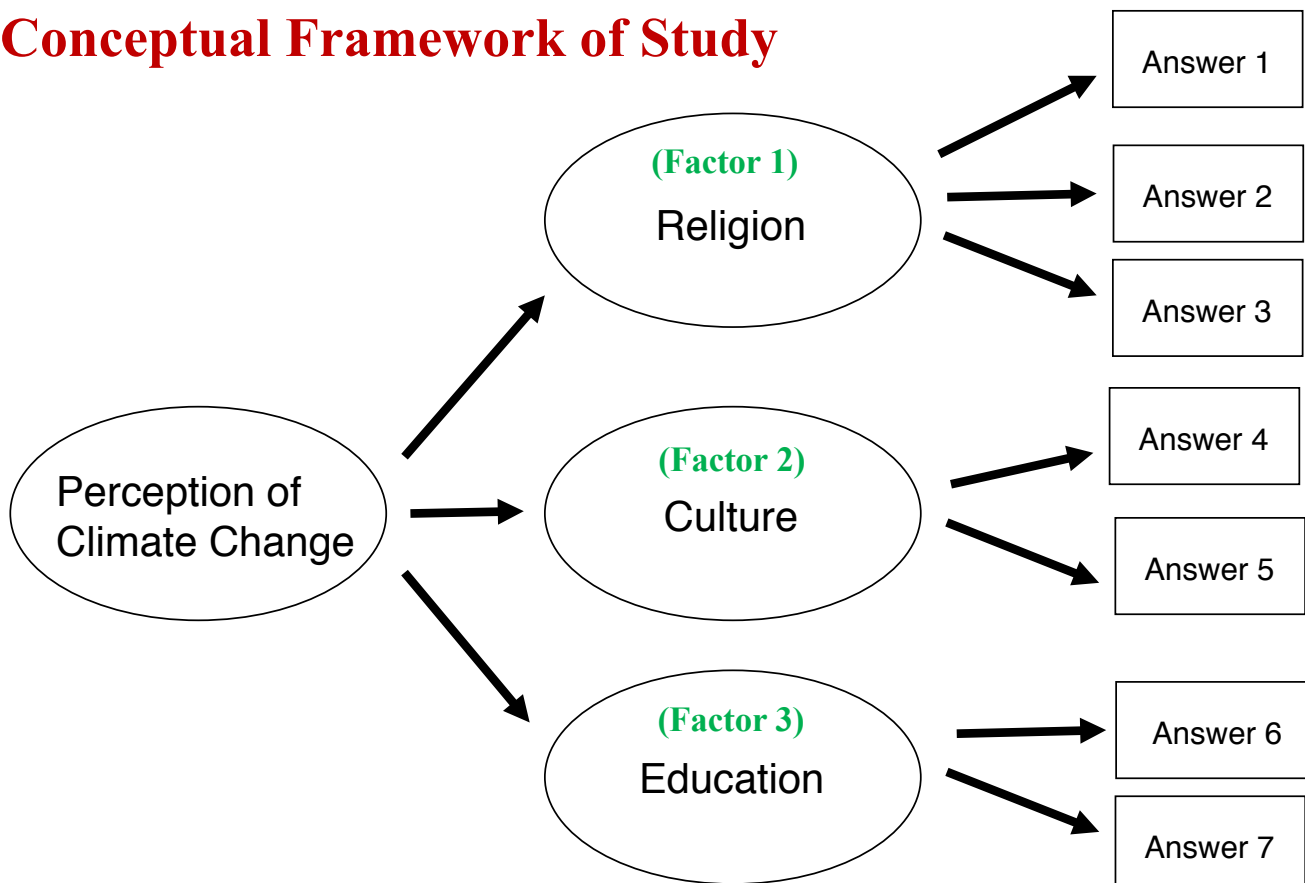
Further Development

- Our international collaborative study “Aspirations and Livelihood Transition of Migrants from the Pacific to Abroad” led to a spin-off study:

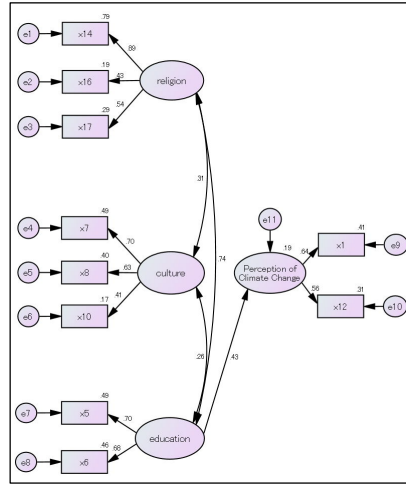
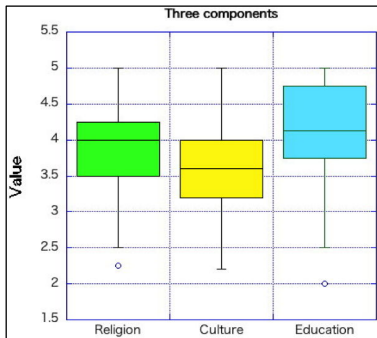
How Religion, Culture and Education Influence the Perception of People about Climate Change

- This study was inspired during implementation of the “first project” through dialogues with faculty members of CMI and USP (both in Majuro, RMI).
- Survey was carried out with the students of CMI and USP in Majuro and the students of USP in Tarawa (Kiribati).

Conceptual Framework of Study



Methods for Analysis



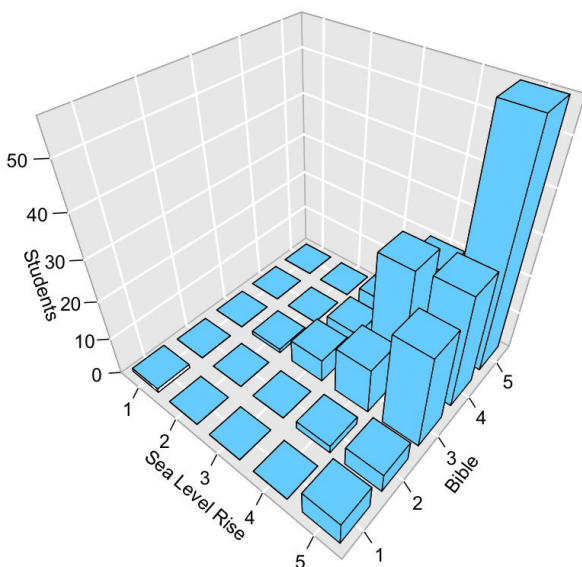
- ✓ Simple “scoring”.
- and
- ✓ Structural Equation Modeling.

Source:

M. Nakayama, I. Taafaki, T. Uakeia, J. Seru, Y. McKay, and H. Lajar, “Influence of Religion, Culture and Education on Perception of Climate Change, and its Implications,” *J. Disaster Res.*, Vol.14, No.9, pp. 1297–1302, 2019.

D. Sasaki, I. Taafaki, T. Uakeia, J. Seru, Y. McKay, and H. Lajar, “Influence of Religion, Culture and Education on Perception of Climate Change and its Implications: Applying Structural Equation Modeling (SEM),” *J. Disaster Res.*, Vol.14, No.9, pp. 1303–1308, 2019.

Just one finding from this research (in Majuro)



Q1: The atoll countries in the Pacific will never be submerged by sea level rise caused by Climate Change, for according to the Bible (Isaiah 54:9) God said "I once promised Noah that I would never again destroy the earth by a flood."

Q2: I am certain that Sea Level Rise is taking place.

A: Strongly agree (point 5) to Strongly disagree (point 1)

- ✓ They believe in both what Bible states and Sea Level Rise.
- ✓ Is such a tension a hindrance to “migration by Climate Change” ?

Special Issue of Journal of Disaster Research with 10 Articles



- ✓ Published on December 1st. 2019.
- ✓ “Free Access” on-line journal.
- ✓ Case studies in Majuro (RMI), Pohnpei (FSM) and Tarawa (Kiribati) as “origin” of future emigrants.
- ✓ Case studies in Portland, Salem and Springdale (USA) , Suva etc. (Fiji) and Vienna (Austria) as “destination”.
- ✓ Articles from “How Religion, Culture and Education Influence the Perception of People about Climate Change” study.

Thank you very much!

